

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 78

Expressing the need to reengage Congress and the Administration regarding the social conditions and need for poverty reduction in Haiti, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2003

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. WATSON, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. WATERS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. CLAY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the need to reengage Congress and the Administration regarding the social conditions and need for poverty reduction in Haiti, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States has participated in nearly 200 years of bilateral relations with Haiti and its successive governments;

Whereas Haiti is a nascent democracy, having had less than 7 years to develop strong democratic institutions, such as its justice system;

Whereas the Government of Haiti has dismantled the national military, which was responsible for countless human rights violations;

Whereas Haiti's only law enforcement consists of 3,500 national police who are charged with ensuring the safety of nearly 8,000,000 citizens;

Whereas Haiti is the most impoverished nation in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas on September 4, 2002, the Organization of American States (OAS) passed Resolution 822 to normalize relations between Haiti and the international financial institutions;

Whereas since the passage of Resolution 822, no formal action has been taken on the part of the international financial institutions;

Whereas the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS states that Haiti accounts for 90 percent of the HIV/AIDS infections and case rates in the Caribbean;

Whereas the infant mortality rate in Haiti continues to rise and only 1 in every 10,000 Haitians has access to a physician;

Whereas less than 40 percent of all Haitians have access to potable water;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has approved the Haitian Government's control mechanisms, which include measures to address trans-

parency, for disbursement of grants from the Global Fund; and

Whereas the people of Haiti have a constitutional and fundamental human right to health and the government has the obligation to fulfill these rights to the level of resources available: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) reaffirms its support for the mission of the
4 Organization of American States (OAS) to Haiti and
5 calls on the President to urge that this mission work
6 closely with the Government and people of Haiti to
7 advance their goals and aspirations and not the ob-
8 jectives of other governments or international orga-
9 nizations;

10 (2) calls on the United States Agency for Inter-
11 national Development, the International Bank for
12 Reconstruction and Development, the International
13 Monetary Fund, and the Inter-American Develop-
14 ment Bank to convene a meeting of all donors and
15 potential donors to Haiti, with the objective of
16 launching a new and sustainable humanitarian ini-
17 tiative, including a lending program that will help
18 bolster the economic and infrastructure bases of
19 Haiti;

1 (3) urges the President to direct the Secretary
2 of State to conduct an immediate review of United
3 States policy toward Haiti, including adequate and
4 appropriate consultations with the relevant commit-
5 tees of Congress;

6 (4) calls specifically upon the International
7 Monetary Fund to reevaluate the current staff moni-
8 toring program conditions outlined for Haiti and
9 work in the long-term toward a poverty reduction
10 agreement for Haiti; and

11 (5) urges the President to instruct the Sec-
12 retary of Treasury to direct the United States Exec-
13 utive Director at the Inter-American Development
14 Bank to release the 4 social sector and development
15 loans totaling \$146,000,000, for health, education,
16 water and sanitation, and transportation, that have
17 been approved by the Board of Executive Directors
18 of the Bank and ratified by the Parliament of Haiti.

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